
By: **Senators Harris, Jacobs, and McCabe**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Disclosure of Gifts**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain exemptions relating to the disclosure of gifts
4 received by members of the General Assembly and certain officials of the
5 Legislative Branch; requiring each State official, public official, and candidate
6 for office as a State Official to disclose any gift, other than a trivial gift of
7 informational value, received, directly or indirectly, from a regulated lobbyist,
8 an entity regulated by the State, or an entity doing business with the State; and
9 generally relating to the disclosure of gifts on financial disclosure statements.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article - State Government
12 Section 15-607(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1999 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article - State Government
17 Section 15-607(e)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1999 Replacement Volume)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article - State Government**

23 15-607.

24 (a) A statement that is required by § 15-601(a) of this subtitle shall contain
25 schedules disclosing the information and interests specified in this section, if known,
26 for the individual making the statement for the applicable period under this subtitle.

27 (e) (1) This subsection does not apply to a gift received from a member of
28 the immediate family, another child, or a parent of the individual.

1 (2) The statement shall include a schedule of each gift, specified in
2 paragraph (3) of this subsection, received during the applicable period:

3 (i) by the individual or by another entity at the direction of the
4 individual; and

5 (ii) directly or indirectly, from or on behalf of an entity that is:

6 1. a regulated lobbyist;

7 2. regulated by the State; or

8 3. otherwise an entity doing business with the State.

9 [(3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the
10 schedule shall include each gift with a value of more than \$20 and each of two or more
11 gifts with a cumulative value of \$100 or more received from one entity during the
12 applicable period.

13 (ii) The statement need not include as a gift:

14 1. food or beverages received and consumed by an official of
15 the Legislative Branch in the presence of the donor or sponsoring entity as part of a
16 meal or reception, to which were invited all members of a legislative unit;

17 2. food or beverages received by a member of the General
18 Assembly at the time and geographic location of a meeting of a legislative
19 organization for which the member's presiding officer has approved the member's
20 attendance at State expense; or

21 3. a ticket or free admission extended to a member of the
22 General Assembly by the person sponsoring or conducting the event as a courtesy or
23 ceremony to the office to attend a charitable, cultural, or political event to which were
24 invited all members of a legislative unit.

25 (iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (ii) of this
26 paragraph, the statement shall include the acceptance of each of two or more tickets
27 or free admissions, extended to a member of the General Assembly by the person
28 sponsoring or conducting the event, with a cumulative value of \$100 or more received
29 from one entity during the applicable period.]

30 (3) THE SCHEDULE SHALL INCLUDE EACH GIFT OF ANY KIND, OTHER
31 THAN A TRIVIAL GIFT OF INFORMATIONAL VALUE ALLOWED UNDER § 15-505(C)(2)(V)
32 OF THIS TITLE.

33 (4) For each gift subject to this subsection, the schedule shall include:

34 (i) the nature and value of the gift; and

35 (ii) the identity of the entity from which, directly or indirectly, the
36 gift was received.

1 (5) This subsection does not authorize any gift not otherwise allowed by
2 law.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2000.